

soon had the bars of the cell out of place.

The sweet, cool breeze blew refreshingly into their faces. Hope and buoyancy enlivened them as they reached the Morse hacienda unobserved and in safety.

It was a quick dash for liberty now. At daybreak the vehicle containing them had passed the district line. They broke the trail by abandoning it. There was a somewhat wearisome foot flight and then at noon next day in the distance the Rio Grande and the Stars and Stripes welcomed them to a hospitable American encampment two miles distant.

"We have won," pronounced Guy proudly, as they stepped aboard the skiff to cross the broad river.

Mr. Morse gave him a grateful look and Lucetta—her eyes met his, glowing with the lovelight that always tells its own story.

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#### A FEW GOOD SNAKE STORIES WHICH ARE SAID TO BE TRUE

Newton, Pa., Aug. 25.—Alexander Dewsnap found a blacksnake sunning itself and made an effort to catch the reptile alive. Just as the snake glided into a hole in the ground Dewsnap clutched it by the tail and drew it out again—as he thought.

Only the skin, however, was in his hands, the blacksnake having suddenly divested itself of its old clothes (or skin) in order to escape.

Wilson Creek, Wash.—The new role of brooder was assumed by a rattlesnake on the borders of town, the reptile mothering some little chicks which were made orphans by a coyote. The snake was proving a good guard, but it was suspected his care was not disinterested.

Bedford, Ind.—Mrs. James Young tells an exciting experience that she and her mother, Mrs. James Barnes, had at the latter's farmhouse near Freetown.

Going to the room to look after her baby, sleeping on the bed, she

heard a peculiar noise that she at first thought was made by a katydid. Calling her mother, they noticed the paper near the ceiling of the room move and with a broom touched it, when a large rattlesnake fell to the floor in a fighting mood.

They ran from the room with the baby and returned, killing the reptile.

Fayette City, Pa.—Gyp, a little rat terrier, in a desperate battle with a big copperhead snake, saved the life of little Peter Herman, two years old, and killed the reptile by breaking its neck.

The child was playing on the kitchen floor of the home when the snake, measuring nearly four feet, crawled in the door.

Gyp, after drawing the copperhead away from the child, gave battle, and before the snake could turn the little terrier had a grip on his neck which snapped the vertebra.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—Charmed by a rattlesnake in the dooryard of her home, Helen Lahey, 3, was snatched away from the snake by her mother as she was about to lay hands on it. The rattler, more than three feet long and having nine rattles, was killed by the father.

For several days the child's parents had observed that she was acting strangely. She spent most of her time near the kitchen door, where there was a large flat stone. The child cried in her sleep and every morning as she was dressed she would run out into the yard and peer about the stone.

Swartswood, N. J.—Mrs. John Black was saved from the attack of a rattlesnake near her home by a blacksnake. She was so intently watching her son trying to catch the latter, which had been stealing eggs, that she did not hear the warning rattle of the other reptile.

The blacksnake heard the sound, and before the rattler could strike had pounced upon it. The blacksnake won, and leaving the rattler lifeless, glided away.